

The Unseen Realm

1. Balaam's Donkey

Numbers 22:1-35

The people of Israel now traveled to the plains of Moab and camped east of the Jordan River opposite Jericho. When King Balak of Moab (the son of Zippor) realized how many of them there were, and when he learned what they had done to the Amorites, he and his people were terrified. They quickly consulted with the leaders of Midian.

“This mob will eat us like an ox eats grass,” they exclaimed.

So King Balak sent messengers to Balaam (son of Beor) who was living in his native land of Pethor, near the Euphrates River. He begged Balaam to come and help him.

“A vast horde of people has arrived from Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth and are headed toward me,” he frantically explained. “Please come and curse them for me, so that I can drive them out of my land; for I know what fantastic blessings fall on those whom you bless, and I also know that those whom you curse are doomed.”

The messengers he sent were some of the top leaders of Moab and Midian. They went to Balaam with money in hand and urgently explained to him what Balak wanted.

“Stay here overnight,” Balaam said, “and I’ll tell you in the morning whatever the Lord directs me to say.” So they did.

That night God came to Balaam and asked him, “Who are these men?”

“They have come from King Balak of Moab,” he replied. “The king says that a vast horde of people from Egypt has arrived at his border, and he wants me to go at once and curse them, in the hope that he can battle them successfully.”

“Don’t do it!” God told him. “You are not to curse them, for I have blessed them!”

The next morning Balaam told the men, “Go on home! The Lord won’t let me do it.”

So King Balak’s ambassadors returned without him and reported his refusal. Balak tried again. This time he sent a larger number of even more distinguished ambassadors than the former group. They came to Balaam with this message:

“King Balak pleads with you to come. He promises you great honors plus any payment you ask. Name your own figure! Only come and curse these people for us.”

But Balaam replied, “If he were to give me a palace filled with silver and gold, I could do nothing contrary to the command of the Lord my God. However, stay here tonight so that I can find out whether the Lord will add anything to what he said before.”

That night God told Balaam, “You may get up and go with these men, but be sure to say only what I tell you to.”

So the next morning he saddled his donkey and started off with them. But God was angry about Balaam’s eager attitude, so he sent an Angel to stand in the road to kill him. As Balaam and two servants were riding along, Balaam’s donkey suddenly saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword. She bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat her back onto the road. Now the Angel of the Lord stood at a place where the road went between two vineyard walls. When the donkey saw him standing there, she squirmed past by pressing against the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot in the process. So he beat her again. Then the Angel of the Lord moved farther down the road and stood in a place so narrow that the donkey couldn’t get by at all. So she lay down in the road! In a great fit of temper Balaam beat her again with his staff.

Then the Lord caused the donkey to speak! “What have I done that deserves your beating me these three times?” she asked.

“Because you have made me look like a fool!” Balaam shouted. “I wish I had a sword with me, for I would kill you.”

“Have I ever done anything like this before in my entire life?” the donkey asked.

“No,” he admitted.

Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes and he saw the Angel standing in the roadway with drawn sword, and he fell flat on the ground before him.

“Why did you beat your donkey those three times?” the Angel demanded. “I have come to stop you because you are headed for destruction. Three times the donkey saw me and shied away from me; otherwise I would certainly have killed you by now and spared her.”

Then Balaam confessed, “I have sinned. I didn’t realize you were there. I will go back home if you don’t want me to go on.”

But the Angel told him, “Go with the men, but say only what I tell you to say.”

Comment: This is an amazing example of the veiled unseen realm. An angel can be made visible to a donkey and yet a human who is riding that donkey can not see the angel. As stated above, it wasn’t until the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, that he was able to see that angel. If this could happen, it means that you could be standing with a friend and your friend might be seeing an angel, but you see nothing.

Also worth noting, God can cause an animal to speak in a human language. God can also command birds to bring food to a person like He did when ravens brought bread and flesh to Elijah each morning and evening as he hid out at the brook Cherith.

2. Elisha's Servant

2 Kings 6:8-17

Once when the king of Syria was at war with Israel, he said to his officers, We will mobilize our forces. Immediately Elisha warned the king of Israel, "Don't! For the Syrians are planning to mobilize their troops!"

The king sent a scout to see if Elisha was right, and sure enough, he had saved him from disaster. This happened several times. The king of Syria was puzzled. He called together his officers and demanded, "Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel about my plans?" "It's not us, sir," one of the officers replied. "Elisha, the prophet, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!" "Go and find out where he is, and we'll send troops to seize him," the king exclaimed. And the report came back, "Elisha is at Dothan."

So one night the king of Syria sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the prophet's servant got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Alas, my master, what shall we do now?" he cried out to Elisha. "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For our army is bigger than theirs!"

Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" And the Lord opened the young man's eyes so that he could see horses of fire and chariots of fire everywhere upon the mountain!

Comment: Elisha was a prophet who could see into the veiled realm at times. He saw the horses and chariots in the angelic realm prepared to do battle against the Syrian army that was sent to take Elisha, yet Elisha's servant did not have a clue that they were there until his eyes were opened to that realm.

3. Apostle Paul Revelations

2 Cor 12:1-4

This boasting is all so foolish, but let me go on. Let me tell about the visions I've had,

and revelations from the Lord.

Fourteen years ago I was taken up to heaven for a visit. Don't ask me whether my body was there or just my spirit, for I don't know; only God can answer that. But anyway, there I was in paradise, and heard things so astounding that they are beyond a man's power to describe or put in words (and anyway I am not allowed to tell them to others).

Comment: Remember, the Apostle Paul was previously known as Saul, a Pharisee of the Jews and was on a mission one day to eradicate the new Christian sect that was growing. While traveling to Damascus he was on his horse and a bright light appeared and he was knocked to the ground. Jesus appeared to him and from that day on Saul's name was changed to Paul and he became a Christian, served Jesus Christ for the rest of his life and ended up writing about 2/3's of the New Testament.

Up until that time, nobody was going to convince Saul that he was fighting against the true God. It wasn't until his eyes saw the resurrected Jesus that he was convinced of his deception. Eventually he would visit Paradise and have astonishing revelations that were beyond man's ability to describe. In fact, he was not permitted to share those revelations with anyone.

4. Peter James John With Jesus

Matthew 17:1-13

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. and, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

Comment: Peter, James and John saw Jesus transfigured right before their very eyes and standing with Jesus was Moses and Elijah. They also heard a voice speaking from a bright cloud. When they heard that voice they fell to the ground and were exceedingly

afraid. Remember, Moses and Elijah lived thousands of years before this encounter. Moses died and was buried by God and Elijah was taken alive up to Heaven. Yet there they both were talking with Jesus, and these three disciples had a front row seat into a realm that very few ever get to see.

5. Job & Satan

Job 1

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Comment: Here we see satan, along with other angels appearing before God one day. God initiated a conversation with satan concerning Job, and God gave permission to satan to test Job's faith and allegiance to Him. The story of this test, Job's conversation with his friends, with God and the ultimate outcome continues for 42 chapters. To the

best of my understanding, Job did not know that this conversation took place between God and Satan and therefore had no understanding as to why he was being tested.

When we get into the New Testament, we learn a whole lot about Satan and the kingdom of darkness. We also learn how to stand against all the wiles (tricks and strategies) of Satan and demonic spirits. We don't have to see them to know that they are there. Yet it is not beyond the realm of possibility that we just might be given a glimpse into that realm.

6. John On The Isle Of Patmos

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, the four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Comment: What else can be said? John had a front row seat and an amazing glimpse into the throne room of heaven. The details above are quite extensive to take the time to comment on. This experience by John just shows us that Heaven is real and that there is

constant activity going on there. Over the years I have heard the testimony of many people who have claimed to have gone to Heaven. When you compare the details of their experiences and what they saw there, there are many conflicting details that have been shared from their experiences and I have never heard a heavenly visit detailed by anyone who claims to have visited there like what the Apostle John saw.

7. Ezekiel 1

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity, The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him.

And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

Comment: Notice some of the similarities with what the Apostle John saw in the 4th chapter of the book of Revelation.

8. Jesus Temptation By Satan

Luke 4:1-13

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

Comment: We won't take the time to comment on all three temptations here. What we need to know is that there is a devil and he did test Jesus and that he is still alive and still tests believers today and still is holding most of the world captive and blind to the reality of the kingdom of God. Not only that, but satan makes it clear that he has control over the kingdoms of this world (for the time being) and he can turn them over to whomever he wishes.

Think about that for a minute. He has control over the kingdoms of this world and he can turn them over to whomever he wishes. Can he also make or break Hollywood Stars, those in the music industry, governmental officials, sports heros, etc.? You better believe he can and he does.

9. Daniel & Michael

Daniel 10 - 21

In the third year of the reign of Cyrus, king of Persia, Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) had another vision. It concerned events certain to happen in the future: times of great tribulation—wars and sorrows, and this time he understood what the vision meant. When this vision came to me (Daniel said later), I had been in mourning for three full weeks. All that time I tasted neither wine nor meat, and, of course, I went without desserts. I neither washed nor shaved nor combed my hair.

Then one day early in April, as I was standing beside the great Tigris River, I looked up, and suddenly there before me stood a person robed in linen garments, with a belt of purest gold around his waist and glowing, lustrous skin! From his face came blinding

flashes like lightning, and his eyes were pools of fire; his arms and feet shone like polished brass, and his voice was like the roaring of a vast multitude of people.

I, Daniel, alone saw this great vision; the men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly filled with unreasoning terror and ran to hide, so I was left alone. When I saw this frightening vision, my strength left me, and I grew pale and weak with fright. Then he spoke to me, and I fell to the ground face downward in a deep faint. But a hand touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. And I heard his voice “O Daniel, greatly beloved of God,” he said, “stand up and listen carefully to what I have to say to you, for God has sent me to you.” So I stood up, still trembling with fear.

Then he said, “Don’t be frightened, Daniel, for your request has been heard in heaven and was answered the very first day you began to fast before the Lord and pray for understanding; that very day I was sent here to meet you. But for twenty-one days the mighty Evil Spirit who overrules the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the top officers of the heavenly army, came to help me, so that I was able to break through these spirit rulers of Persia. Now I am here to tell you what will happen to your people, the Jews, at the end times, for the fulfillment of this prophecy is many years away.”

All this time I was looking down, unable to speak a word. Then someone, he looked like a man, touched my lips and I could talk again, and I said to the messenger from heaven, “Sir, I am terrified by your appearance and have no strength. How can such a person as I even talk to you? For my strength is gone, and I can hardly breathe.” Then the one who seemed to be a man touched me again, and I felt my strength returning. “God loves you very much,” he said; “don’t be afraid! Calm yourself; be strong!” Suddenly, as he spoke these words, I felt stronger and said to him, “Now you can go ahead and speak, sir, for you have strengthened me.”

He replied, “Do you know why I have come? I am here to tell you what is written in the ‘Book of the Future.’ Then, when I leave, I will go again to fight my way back, past the prince of Persia; and after him, the prince of Greece. Only Michael, the angel who guards your people Israel, will be there to help me.”

Comment: Here we have an incredible view behind the veil that conceals the spiritual battle going on over the kingdoms of the world. Angelic warfare is taking place that is deciding the fate of nations. When we look up into the sky, we don’t see anything. We don’t see angels engaged in battle like we are being shown here in the book of Daniel. Yet just because we can’t see it doesn’t mean its not going on. Our next scripture verse will shed some more light on this. It will introduce the subject of Principalities, Powers, Rulers Of The Darkness Of This World and Spiritual Wickedness In High Places and we will get a much better understanding about what is going on here.

10. Principalities & Powers

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Comment: This verse describes the spiritual battle that exists in the lives of believers. It does so perhaps better than any other words in Scripture. First, Paul affirms our battle is indeed spiritual, not physical. The enemies we face, ultimately, are not people or objects. The Devil may use those as part of his attack, but our true opponent is not other people.

Second, Paul identifies our spiritual enemies. This list is commonly interpreted as a vague listing of the "ranks" within the demonic armies. "Rulers" seem to indicate a top level of evil spiritual forces. "Authorities" refer to general forces of evil attacking believers. "Cosmic powers" seems to refer to the worldwide nature of this spiritual battle. "Evil in the heavenly places" again emphasizes a battle beyond this world.

Spiritual battles can occur at all levels, anywhere across this world and beyond. The believer must be prepared for all types of attacks through putting on God's armor.

So as we have previously seen in the book of Daniel, there are angels fighting over nations in the heavenly realm (sky). We saw that the devil tempted Jesus in the physical realm (earth). Next we will see that demons are at work deceiving and even possessing humans here in the earthly realm. All of this activity is veiled from our nature sight.

11. Woman Bowed Over

Luke 13:11-17

And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Comment: Here we have a glimpse into a veiled realm that is seldom considered: infirmity cause by demons that are unseen by the naked eye. For 18 years a woman had been bowed over and could not straighten up. The cause of this condition was a spirit of infirmity. The religious leaders of her day didn't see it and could do nothing about it. I wonder if the medical doctors of her day tried to help her... to no avail. The reason she was in this condition was due to an unseen demonic spirit and Jesus knew that. Believe it or not, there are still demons who cause sickness in the world today. That's why Jesus told his disciples and those that followed him in Mark 16:15-17 to: Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues, they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.

12. Naked Possessed Man

Luke 8:26-39

And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils for a long time, and wore no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was a herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would permit them to enter into them. And he permitted them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Comment: Here we have a person who most would consider to be lunatic. Yet the cause of this person's condition, unseen by those around him, was demon possession. He had many demons in him. The demons even talked to Jesus asking for mercy. Eventually the demons were cast out of the man and into a herd of pigs. When this happened, the pigs ran into the lake and were drowned.

I wonder how many people today can't be healed of their sicknesses and infirmities, even with the best of modern day medical care, because there is a demon involved, unseen in the veiled spiritual realm?

13. Angels Unaware Scripture

Hebrews 13:2

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. KJV

Don't forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! TLB

Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it! MSG

Comment: Pretty self explanatory. Angels can appear as human beings.

14. Heavenly Host Appeared To The Shepherds

Luke 2:8-15

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Comment: The shepherds were suddenly surprised by an angelic visitation. Obviously, from their reaction to what was going on, they had never experienced anything like this before. One minute they are tending their sheep in the evening and the next minute, their whole life had been changed. Can you imagine them sharing the experience with their family, friends and town folk. Did they bring the curious minded to the very spot that they had the encounter? Did anybody believe them? For weeks and months to come, while they watched their flocks, did they keep looking up to the sky wondering if they would appear again? Put yourself in their shoes. One minute you're minding your own business and the next, the veil between the seen and unseen is lifted.

15. Soul & Spirit In Man

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Comment: I shared these scriptures just to show that there is an unseen realm in every human being. Not only does a human have a physical body that can be seen with the physical eyes, there is that unseen realm called the soul and the spirit. And inside of every Christian there is also the person of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

16. Angel At Jesus' Tomb

John 20:8-16

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have took him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Comment: This wasn't Mary's first encounter with the angelic realm. The angel Gabriel was sent to her to inform her that she would become pregnant and give birth to Jesus. Now here after Jesus' crucifixion, at his grave site, she encounters two more angels. Then leaving the tomb she saw Jesus but didn't recognize him. Then he spoke to her.

We know that Jesus visited his disciples over a period of 40 days after his resurrection. On the day that he would leave them for good, there were two angels standing there as the disciples watched him ascend up out of sight.

Acts 1:10-11 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

When you think about it, angels seem to have been involved in many important events throughout human history. Some got to be first hand witnesses to the events and others heard about them secondhand from those who were fortunate to be directly involved in the encounter. With the return of Jesus drawing nearer, I wonder if angelic activity will begin to increase?

17. Heaven & Hell

Matthew 25:46

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Comment: I think most adults know about the concept of Heaven and Hell. Some believe they exist and others don't. What Heaven and Hell are truly like are veiled from the eyes of the human race. Sure, some have claimed to have visited Heaven and some have claimed to have gone to Hell. Yet for the average person, the only real concept they will have of Heaven and Hell is from what the Bible has to say. There are many scripture verses in the Bible that refer to Heaven and Hell and a final judgment of all mankind. Here are just a couple of them.

John 5:28-29

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and

small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Matthew 13:36-43

Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

18. Keep Focused On Things Above

Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Comment: The things of this earth are easy to view. They are all around us everywhere we look. The things of Heaven are veiled. To keep our eyes and minds focused on the heavenly, we need to know what the Bible has to say. That is our view into the things of Heaven that Jesus is referring to.

Matthew 6:19-33

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 4:1-20

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to

those on the outside everything is said in parables so that they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!

Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop, some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

* Final thought here: I have heard from time to time the following adage: ‘Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good.’ There is some wisdom to be gained in that saying. Yet I believe that there is much more wisdom to be gained in the saying: ‘Some people are so earthly minded that they are no heavenly good.’

19. The Heavens Declare God Is

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens are telling the glory of God. They are a marvelous display of His craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God. Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world.

Romans 1:18-20

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, evil men who push away the truth from them. For the truth about God is known to them instinctively; God has put this knowledge in their hearts. Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day.

Comment: I guess these last two scriptures are a good place to conclude our thoughts about the veiled realm. There is much that we can not see because it is veiled. Yet there is **no veil** covering all that we do see and what we do see, we will be held accountable for.

I leave you with one final scripture verse.

Proverbs:14:1

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

20. The Book Of Enoch

Enoch is mentioned three times in the Bible. The first mention is in Genesis 5:18-24, where he is described as a faithful and obedient man who pleased the Lord.

The second mention is in Hebrews 11:5, where he is mentioned as a man of faith who was taken up by God.

The third mention is in Jude 1:14-15, where he is described as a prophet.

He is also one of the three characters in the Bible that did not have an actual death but instead was taken up by God.

Comment: The actual book of Enoch was never canonized along with the other 66 books of the Bible and there are Pros and Cons as to why it should have been and why it should not have been. There is a lot of information in the book of Enoch about the spiritual unseen realm.